

## **The Palmer Drought Severity Index**

Palmer Drought Severity Index, an index, developed by Wayne Palmer in the 1960's, which measures drought severity using temperature and rainfall to determine dryness. The Palmer Drought Severity Index or (PDSI) has become the "semi-official" drought index as it is "standardized" to local climate and can be applied to any part of the country. The PDSI uses zero as normal and assigns a monthly numerical id between +6 and -6 with, server droughts having higher negative numbers. Thus, a moderate drought is minus 2, a sever drought minus 3, and extreme drought is minus 4. Excess rain is expressed using plus figures, with plus 2 representing moderate rainfall, etc.